

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 PA-02 INR-10 /030 W
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P 280235Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6319
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 05247

FOR: STATE FOR EA/ANZ CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. THE NEW ZEALAND MEDIA CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, WITH THE CAPITAL'S "EVENING POST" CALLING THOSE WITH NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TO THE DECISIONS "SABOTEURS OF CAMP DAVID." AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN ISRAEL WERE USED BY RADIO NEW ZEALAND TODAY TO DETAIL ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR THE PEACE TREATY MEETING LATER IN THE YEAR.
2. THE DISASTROUS AIR CRASH AT SAN DIEGO ALSO CLAIMED HEADLINES AND PROMPTED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES.
3. LOCALLY, THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, THE MEAT FREEZING INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS WAS DEFUSED BY THE DROPPING OF ILLEGAL STRIKE CHARGES AGAINST THE FREEZING WORKERS, A MOVE WHICH HAS LED TO FURTHER CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR HASTILY PREPARED LEGISLATION.

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4. DURING THE WEEK, PARLIAMENT BEGAN A SERIES OF LATE AND ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS IN WHAT HAS BECOME A TRADITIONAL RUSH TO PASS END-OF-SESSION LEGISLATION. WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS IN JUST TWO MONTHS, THE OPPOSITION HAS SHOWN UNEXPECTED VITALITY IN ITS ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT ACTION AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN DRAWING OUT DEBATES, BUT HAS NOT SCORED MANY ELECTION POINTS.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND WAS REPORTED THIS WEEK AS BEING MORE THAN 50,000 - HIGH ENOUGH TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IN A COUNTRY WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY GIVEN PRIORITY TO LOW UNEMPLOYMENT.

6. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HAS JUST ADDRESSED THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY OF APARTHEID "IS NOT ONLY WRONG, BUT SUICIDAL."

7. THE NEW ZEALAND CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL IS STILL USING VOA SCIENCE REPORT SCRIPTS OVER THE SCHOOL BROADCAST NETWORK OF RADIO NEW ZEALAND.

8. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR, WELLINGTON MAYOR FOWLER, RAN THE THIRD OF HIS SERIES OF ARTICLES AND SKETCHES IN THE "EVENING POST," THIS TIME DEALING WITH THE SOUTH, WHERE HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK OF THE VIEUX CARRE COMMISSION IN NEW ORLEANS.

9. ON SEPTEMBER 27, WE SHOWED THE "PERCEPTIONS" VTR TO AN AUDIENCE OF TEN SENIOR LECTURERS, RESEARCHERS AND PROFESSORS OF THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (WELLINGTON) DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS. INCLUDED IN THE GROUP WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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10. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL COMMENTED THAT "PERCEPTIONS" GAVE THEM A SOMEWHAT CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLICY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, "PERCEPTIONS" ELICITED CRITICAL COMMENTS FOR ITS SCATTERSHOT, UNFOCUSED APPROACH TO ITS SUBJECT MATTER. ALL AGREED THAT THE PRESENTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE EFFECTIVE HAD IT EXPLORED CONCEPTS, RATHER THAN USING INDIVIDUALS TO LARGELY REITERATE WHAT EACH OTHER SAID. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT ALSO COMMENTED THAT OFTEN, WHEN A SPEAKER INTRODUCED AN INTERESTING THOUGHT, HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO FOLLOW IT UP, NOR DID SUBSEQUENT SPEAKERS ADDRESS THE ISSUE. THE POLITICAL/SECURITY TOPIC, INTRODUCED DURING THE FINAL FIFTEEN MINUTES OF "PERCEPTIONS", CONSISTED LARGELY OF PEOPLE REPEATING THE REFRAIN THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM ASIA, WITHOUT EXPLORING THE TOPIC IN ANY DEPTH, ACCORDING TO THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE.

11. ALSO ON SEPTEMBER 27, THE POST SHOWED THE ICA FILM "PAINTERS PAINTING" AT THE NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS. THE 37-MEMBER AUDIENCE, WHICH INCLUDED FRANK CORNER, THE HEAD OF THE N.Z. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

COMMENTED VERY FAVORABLY ON THE FILM.

12. DURING THE WEEK, TERRENCE O'BRIEN, OF THE ECONOMICS
DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LEFT FOR
THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BROOKINGS SEMINAR ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. ALISTER MARTIN,
AN AUCKLAND BUSINESSMAN AND N.Z. PRESIDENT OF THE ENGLISH
SPEAKING UNION, ALSO LEFT ON A PARTIAL IV GRANT, WHICH

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FOR STATE FOR EA/ANZ CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

WILL ENABLE HIM TO STUDY AMERICAN MARKETING AND RETAIL
TECHNIQUES. ON SEPTEMBER 30, M.B. LATHAM, THE PLANNING
DIRECTOR OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AUTHORITY, ARRIVES IN
THE U.S. LATHAM IS BEING PROGRAMMED AS A VOLUNTARY
VISITOR. WILLIAMS

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